

THE DELAWARE AND HUDSON CANAL COMPANY'S GRAVITY RAILROAD

On October 9, 1829, the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company's Gravity Railroad, the third railroad constructed in the Western Hemisphere, became operational, and the first car load of coal was shipped from Carbon-dale to Honesdale. In 1847, the Gravity Railroad was extended south to Archbald; in 1858, it was extended to Valley Junction. In 1859, passenger service was instituted. On October 29, 1898, the D&H announced that the last train would travel the road on December 31, 1898. On January 3, 1899, several loads of coal that had accumulated along the line were run off and more than 4,600 coal cars were moved to convenient locations for disposal. On January 4, 1899, the fires of the stationary engines at the heads of the planes were shut down, and the Gravity Railroad was no more.